

DRAFT

CEMETERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES 1400 E. WASHINGTON AVENUE, MADISON October 8, 2002

PRESENT: Craig Gramke, Glen Porter, III, Jon Ruatti, David Stucki, and Tim Tysver

EXCUSED: Kelly Coleman, Marie Drescher, Jim Ullom and David Weiss

STAFF PRESENT: Clete Hansen and Gene Kleinert; David O'Connell for a portion of the meeting

GUESTS: None.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Clete Hansen, Division Administrator.

AGENDA

MOTION: Tim Tysver moved, seconded by Glenn Porter, to approve the agenda, as published. Motion unanimously carried.

MINUTES (5/7/02)

MOTION: David Stucki moved, seconded by Jon Ruatti, to approve the minutes, as published. Motion unanimously carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Division Administrator's Report

- **Committee Membership Roster**

Noted

- **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2002, at 9:30 a.m.

- **Service and Budget Committee**

The Committee reviewed documents, relating to the recommendations of the Service and Budget Committee and the staff of the Department of Regulation and Licensing. A Committee member pointed out that the graph, showing the licensing fees does not list cemetery authorities. In addition the funeral director fees are somewhat unclear.

- **Communication – Katharine Hildebrand**

Katharine Hildebrand was unable to attend the meeting; however, Clete Hansen informed the Committee about changes that have been made to the Regulatory Digest and plans that Ms. Hildebrand has for having a Web site for each profession. Any important information, relating to a profession would be placed on the Web. Therefore, the Department may be able to reduce its sizeable costs for preparing and mailing issues of the Regulatory Digest.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

Revision of Cemetery Laws

Clete Hansen informed the Committee that he was able to work on a new R&L draft proposal to revise the cemetery statutes. He said that he worked off of 2001 Assembly Bill 776, and added a few provisions and crossed out other provisions. He said that AB 776 appears to contain many changes that were agreed to at meetings organized by Ed Huck. Hansen also requested the Committee's advice on the following issues: the makeup of the Board, the alienation and use of cemetery burial spaces, provisions relating to the appointment of a trustee for an abandoned cemetery, and the registration of salespersons employed by a municipal cemetery.

Some Committee members advised that the Board makeup could include a representative of a religious cemetery (even though religious cemeteries would be exempted from registration), since the draft would require religious cemeteries to comply with some other requirements. Some Committee members also informally agreed that the trustee provisions should be removed. As for the alienation and use of lots, some Committee members advised that the R&L draft that preceded AB 776 has language that would be better than the language in AB 776. As for the registration of cemetery salespersons of municipal cemeteries, some Committee members stated that the exemption language in AB 776 should be eliminated. The Committee made no motions regarding these discussion items and no attempt was made to reach a consensus.

Hansen advised that he is trying to have a draft ready, if and when it will be needed; however, he said that he does not know if and when the Department will proceed with a proposal. He also said that any draft he prepares at this time will have to be reviewed and approved by the Secretary before it can be construed as the Department's latest draft.

Proposed Regulation of Crematories – LRB 2804/P4

The Committee noted that interested parties had a meeting and recommended that an additional phrase be inserted in line 14 of LRB-2804/P4, regarding the Department's authority to inspect crematories. Dave Stucki suggested that when the Department regulates a new profession or activity for the first time, such as crematories, it ought to initially inspect each new registrant.

Current and Future Status of Cemeteries

The Committee noted, but did not thoroughly discuss an article, entitled "Shipper Explains How Things Got Bad," published in the *American Cemetery* for May 2000.

Consumer Complaints

David O'Connell, the Screening, Public Records and Audit Supervisor in the Division of Enforcement, discussed the complaint screening process with the Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE/INFORMATION

1. Documents relating to Alderwoods Group were noted.
2. An article in *Governing*, dated September 2002, entitled "Whistling Past the Graveyard" was noted.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Jon Ruatti moved, seconded by David Stucki, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was informally adjourned at 12:25 p.m.